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but before they can do so, the south wind strikes the canvas and sweeps the ship out to sea. As Peter says, "Die Segel sinken schaff herunter, weil der volle Wind aufhört." No one, so far as I know, translates *vela cadunt* in this passage by "the sails drop (are furled)," although some editors do not make any comment at all. No one seems to cite as parallel *Aen.* iii. 207, naturally enough perhaps, since it is so generally taken in a different sense, although the contrast in meaning might well be referred to by those who believe that the meaning is not the same in the two passages. But it seems wholly unlikely that Ovid, especially in lines so reminiscent of Vergil, should have used the phrase with a meaning entirely different from that given it by the earlier poet.

In Ovid, *Ars Amat.* i. 373, *sed propera, ne vela cadant auraeque residant*, we have precisely the same meaning; cf. Brandt, "Eile, damit nicht beim nachlassen des dir günstigen Windes das Segel zusammen falle." Of course a case of hysteron-proteron.

So too in Lucan v. 427 ff. (Francken):

flexo navita cornu
Obliquat laevo pede carbasa, summaque pandens
Suppara velorum *perituras colligit auras*.
Ut primum levior propellere lintea ventus
Incipit *exiguumque tument*, mox *reddita malo*
In mediam cecidere ratem.

Here Francken's comment is: "(vela) reiecta in malum reciderunt in mediam navem. Pendent vela et cursum navis (remis adactae) non aequat ventus sed tardior est."

Evidently the phrase *vela cadunt* is the regular (technical?) expression for the flattening out of a sail from loss of wind, and it seems very improbable that Vergil used it in a different sense. If he did, which I cannot myself believe, the editors of Vergil should comment on it, Ovid, *Fasti*, iii. 585 should not be cited as parallel, and our lexicons should give both meanings.

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"LARGITER POSSE," CAES. *B.G.* i. 18. 4-6

The late Professor Morgan, in his *Addresses and Essays*, 14, records a joke of Livy's, which he accompanied by a wink at the appreciative reader. He concludes: "Is it necessary to put up a signboard with a printed notice, 'The following is a joke'? It seems so for many Europeans; but let not us Americans be so stolid."

These words give me courage to commit to print another of my *marginalia*, which I jotted down many years ago. In Caesar, *B.G.* i. 18. 4, it is said of Dumnorix: "his rebus et suam rem familiarem auxisse et facultates ad *largiendum* magnas comparasse." In sect. 6 Caesar continues: "neque solum domi sed etiam apud finitimas civitates *largiter posse*." It seems probable that in the last

two words Caesar is punning on *largiendum*, and that he wrote them with a wink at the reader and with a grin at his own cleverness.

I foresee that this idea will be received with incredulity, if not with derision. It may even be suspected that I am indulging in a wink at the expense of the philological public; but I am quite serious, and the scoffer may give, if he can, a better reason for Caesar's use of *largiter* in this connection.

Largiter (the regular form is of course *large*) is used by various writers from Plautus to Apuleius, and its history seems to indicate that it belongs to the language of everyday life. It is, however, used twice by Lucretius, vi. 1110 and 622. See Merrill on the latter passage, who omits from the list of those who use the word Brutus apud Cic., *auct. Bell. Afr.*, Suet. and Apul. But *largiter posse* seems to be unique, and Caesar's regular expressions, as well as those of other writers, are *plurimum posse* and *valere*.

That Caesar had a sense of humor is shown by his appreciation of the very creditable pun of the soldier of the tenth legion (*B.G.* i. 42. 6). That the Romans in general were inordinately fond of word-plays is of course well known, and that they sometimes used them out of season is sufficiently shown by Ovid, *Fasti*, iii, 545 f.:

Arserat Aeneae Dido miserabilis igne,
Arserat exstructis in sua fata rogis.

If Livy could indulge in an occasional wink, we need not be incredulous about a pun in Caesar. This one may be so obvious that I am setting up a signboard solely for the use of Europeans, but I have not seen it referred to by any of the editors.

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